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USDA/Let's Help -- Help more

By The Capital-Journal editorial board

Topeka's Let's Help organization just got an important partner to make its Heartland SHARE Initiative even more effective.

We learned this week that the USDA's Rural Development program was teaming up with Let's Help's Heartland SHARE to give more punch to both programs.

The original concept of SHARE was to encourage low-income people to do volunteer work. They can save money on food packages by volunteering in their community. The program was brought to Kansas in 1991 by Let's Help.

Now the partnership with USDA Rural Development will provide housing information such as home buyer education, financing opportunities and rural renting housing tips and other help to people across the state. It also supports business development and community and technology infrastructure in rural areas.

Besides improving the efficiency of delivery of services, the partnership also amounts to a vote of confidence by the federal government for the efficiency of the Let's Help organization.